



Dkt. 0575/54205-A-PCT-US/JEP

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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Applicants : John O'Connor et al.

Serial No. : 09/630,215

Examiner: Gailene Gabel

Filed : August 1, 2000

Group Art Unit: 1641

For : METHODS FOR PREDICTING PREGNANCY OUTCOME IN A
SUBJECT BY hCG ASSAY

1185 Avenue of the Americas
New York, NY 10036
March 17, 2003

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231
Box RCE

Sir:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT AND INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

This Preliminary Amendment and Information Disclosure Statement is submitted in order to make certain disclosures under 37 C.F.R. §1.56 and to address the Examiner's rejections made in the December 16, 2002 Final Office Action issued in connection with the above-identified application. Applicants are filing a Request for Continued Examination ("RCE") herewith. A response to the December 16, 2002 Final Office Action is due March 16, 2003. However, since March 16, 2003 falls on a Sunday, a response is due the next business day, namely Monday, March 17, 2003. Accordingly, this Preliminary Amendment is being timely filed.

Please amend the subject application as follows: